

# AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

*O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint  
Agricolas.* Virg.

VOL. III.

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## AGRICULTURE.

From the London Farmer's Journal.

### HOLKHAM GRAND ANNUAL SHEEP-SHEARING MEETING, &c.

(Continued from page 242.)

#### SECOND DAY.

The morning of Tuesday presented the same scene in front of the Hall; namely, the children breaking and spinning flax and hemp. To reduce the latter, they first used the common *brake*, which (as the hemp was somewhat fine in the stalk, and in a highly dried state) shattered and discharged the *bum* with more facility than might have been expected. No part of Holkham Park, or its neighbourhood, is adapted to the growth of hemp; but of flax, by skilful management, the crops are very pretty, and much better than in many other places where the land is greatly superior. While we are on this topic, we beg leave to suggest that all the flax which is spun for linen, ought to be bleached in the dressed state before spinning, which would make the fabric much better; because the mucilaginous and colouring matter which adhere to the fibres, must otherwise be dissolved and washed away from the web, which weakens the texture of the cloth. It appears to us also, that the volunteer superintendent (the indefatigable and worthy Mr. Herod) has not fully learned the process of bleaching, or boiling, and afterwards again dressing the stuff, to bring it into that beautiful state in which it is rendered by Mr. Bundy: not but that he makes it do very well for ordinary purposes; but a great recommendation of a novel process, is the beauty and perfection of the workmanship. We cannot here omit to pay a just tribute of applause to the amiable patroness under whose direction this most humane and exemplary undertaking has proceeded. We were cautioned not to mention her name, which undoubtedly must be ascribed to those retired and unobtrusive traits of character and disposition which ever more distinguish pre-eminent talents and virtues; but we confess we are strongly tempted, and find ourselves on the very brink of disobedience. We, however, "Keep the word of promise to the ear," and leave it to our readers to appropriate this feeble eulogium to her who, of all creatures of mortal mould, seems to approach nearest to the angelic nature.

The morning scene, in the front of Holkham Hall, is evermore a most exhilarating and delightful precursor of the rational pleasures of the day: an immense assemblage of the nobility and gentry, with men of learning and science, and intelligent men of business from all parts, form a conversation altogether unique. Some are formed into groups in earnest talk; others busied in identifying public characters; others anxiously inquiring after the several objects in view. Here is one lecturing on grasses; there is another with a bottle in his hand, supposed to contain a curious oil for the foot-rot, or a foreign liquor by way of pocket pistol.—No; it is filled with turnip flies, caught by the ingenious Mr. Paul. There is a man with a non-descript weapon, or some strange implement; he looks like a pioneer in this peaceful army. Pray what is it he carries? "That, sir, is called a *graminator*." There is another with a wheel—Does he act the part of Fortune in this demi-masquerade? "Not at all; it is nothing but a perambulator upon a new construction; he will explain it to you in a minute, how it

shews the poles, furlongs, and miles, in a most simple and certain manner. Fixed to the side of a gig, and operated on through apparatus attached to the wheel, it becomes a travelling companion." Divided from these by an iron trellis, are carriages and horsemen, who continue to arrive to join in the cavalcade; and when Mr. Coke signifies that it is time to set forward, there is a most lively and irregular bustle to mount: the scene represents an army of routed cavalry, wherein you might figure to yourself here and there a *Richard*, calling "A horse! A horse! my kingdom for a horse!"

The first object in the business of this day, was the prize South Downs, which are exhibited in the Sheep-Yard adjoining the Shrubbery: the show was numerous and excellent. In this place was exhibited a curious screen invented by Mr. Beeton, of Webley, for the purpose of taking out the rough and jagged seeds of hairriff\* and wild oats. In countries where these are prevalent and mischievous, either from soil or deficient husbandry, it had occurred to many persons that such seeds might be abstracted from the corn, by means of shaking the quantity in something to which they would adhere. Mr. Beeton has thus constructed a screen, through which the corn passes over a flannel, which is put in motion by a crank and oller; and in returning below, the seeds are scraped off by two smooth edged wooden knives against which the flannel is pressed. We cannot here bestow more attention upon it; it certainly takes out many of the seeds; but a gentleman who looked attentively at the process, said, "Prevention is better than cure."

Leaving the Sheep-yard, the company, amounting to near 600, viewed the parts of the Park adjoining, which had been inoculated within two or three years, as also the parts from which the sods were taken. The latter were perfectly united, and no trace could be found of the turf having been cut up, although it is now the practice to take half the sod away; that is, to take away a sod of five inches and a half, and leave a like one standing. Considering that the space operated upon seldom extends to more than two or three acres, in one year (and generally less,) it could be no great difficulty to have twenty loads per acre of good mellow compost to spread upon the land so stripped; if this be done, the part operated on is greatly improved instead of being injured; and even without it, if the soil be naturally deep, and rather of a dry nature, and liable to be mossy; because in this case the grasses acquire a renewed vigour, and recovering from their hide-bound state, cover the surface with improved verdure: the remaining sods are pressed down on approaching winter, and in spring with a heavy roller. We could find among the company some traits of scepticism still on these points, but they are fast wearing away by the facts that are shewn.

The company were then led to the village of Holkham, where all eminent strangers are so much astonished and delighted; a number of whom minutely inspected the cottages, and others admired the gardens. Our repeated description of these may appear somewhat fond, but, in sober truth, the great mind which promotes all this, is only the most perfect copy of that intelligence which provides for the whole family of his creatures. Were not his gifts intercepted by the mistakes or defects of human nature, why should not every village be like the village of Holkham? Every year buildings are erected, and the visitors see evidences of their progressive increase in their dates in front. This year a public school is building, that nothing may be wanting to the morals of the people. Every

year improvements are made, uniting convenience, taste, and comfort. Since our last visit, a road has been opened through the marsh, which shortens conveyance, and throws open to the village a view of the sea. The gardens exhibit the very last degree of neatness, and may be compared for cleanliness and order, to a parterre which is managed by the nicest hand.

The next scene was the experimental patches of objects newly introduced. Such is the desire of reputation and publicity for every projected improvement, that the inventor, whatever be his quality or condition, mounts his hobby and rides to Holkham; and such is Mr. Coke's kindness, as well as public spirit, that stalls are provided for them all, and there they are found, side by side, at the next meeting. Here we saw a piece of flax in flower, cultivated in drills, and as clean as a garden. Next to this was a patch of oats sent by sir John Sinclair; they appeared to be a coarse kind in the chaff, short in the straw, and early in ripening; their name and country we have forgot; but if they be valuable, we shall hear more about them. The third object was an acre or two of cabbages, proposed by Dr. Rigby: they were the early York cabbages, recommended to field culture, in rows of three feet apart, to allow of working the soil between them during their whole growth; the crop to be consumed in August, and the land planted with Savoys for winter. Respecting this as a cattle crop, we are of opinion that one crop of Scotch cabbages would weigh more than them both; besides that, the August crop of cabbages must be consumed when they are not much wanted. A gentleman present observed, that the savoys would not continue well as food for ewes in spring, and that the second planting had better be the thousand-headed cabbage. We think the Scotch kail a much better plant for this latter purpose. Beyond this was a field of peas, cultivated upon an experiment recommended by Lord Albemarle: one half was cultivated in rows of 18 inches apart; the other half in double rows of nine inch intervals, with a double interval of 18 inches between each two rows. The crop was altogether very fine; but Mr. Coke informed the company that this was only the second year of the experiment, and that he never pronounced any decision or opinion, as weighing upon his mind, on less than three years experience. Leaving the experimental site, the company were led through several fields of turnips, where the horse hoes were at work on the young crops, and on those more advanced were women and children setting out the plants, women with hand hoes cutting the rows across, and children singling the plants by hand.

From hence the company were led by various crops of excellent wheat, barley, and turnips, to the site of last year's ploughing match, where was seen a striking proof of the advantages of a stale furrow; the crop was oats after two year's lay. The parts ploughed last year on the 3d or 4th of July, had been stirred in the winter, and the intervals, which had been fed the rest of the year, were spring ploughed just before sowing; the difference was visible as far as the crop could be seen; and in consequence of this and other proofs in the Park persons in the neighbourhood are now ploughing up the lays which are intended for wheat in autumn.

Leaving this, the company were led over an old sand-floored lay, which Mr. Coke said would have been ploughed up several years ago, as it was then nearly worn out, but for the gypsum which had been recommended by Mr. Holdich; the crop was now luxuriant, and it appeared that the gypsum this year had so invigorated the plant, as to renew the lay, and prolong it for an indefinite period in a productive state.

\* Tongue weed; scratch weed; goose tongue, clivers, &c.—In Botany, GALEA.

From hence they arrived speedily at the Great Barn, where the prize cattle were exhibited. Here the company alighted, and the stalls were soon thronged with spectators, so that it was almost impossible for us to make way to the several objects for necessary information. The show of Devon cattle was certainly admirable. In returning towards the Hall, Mr. Coke led his company to a grass-lay which had been last year sowed with common rye-grass, across the middle of which two bushels of the improved sort had been sown, which had been raised, and were sent to Mr. Coke by Mr. Holdich. Mr. Coke begged the company to observe the superior verdure, and the much better cover of herbage that appeared on this part: the whole lay had been stocked together, and had been closely eaten; but Mr. Coke declared that such was the apparent superiority of this part, that he had no doubt that it would carry a sheep and a half an acre more than the other; therefore, in future, he would never sow the common rye grass. The last object of this interesting ride was a field of *creeping wheat*, a variety which is likely to be a valuable acquisition to the husbandman, as it has not yet been known to mildew.

## THE DINNER.

Upwards of 600 persons dined at the Hall this day. As soon as the cloth was drawn, Mr. Coke rose, and in a short address proposed the health of the Duke of Bedford; stating how much he was indebted to his Grace for his kindness in coming to Holkham, for that having been long ill, it was an exertion to oblige him (Mr. Coke) which he could hardly have expected. Mr. Coke added, that he hoped his Noble Friend would not fatigue himself by much exertion in reply, as he was sure the company would readily remit their own gratification in favour of his health, well knowing the sentiments and public spirit of the Duke of Bedford.

"The Duke of Bedford, and prosperity to the House of Russell," with three times three, which was drank with enthusiastic cheers.

The Duke in rising to return thanks, adverted to the weak state of his health for some time past, but observed that as long as he was able, it gave him the highest gratification to meet the company at Holkham. "I am extremely gratified (said his Grace) with the honour done me, but more with the manner in which it has been conferred. I would have wished to have been spared the pain of receiving so flattering a remark of your esteem, but being all my life strongly attached to agricultural pursuits, I cannot omit to make one or two observations on the important question which has so long engaged the public attention. After years of painful struggling, a Committee has been appointed, but the result of their inquisition must be unsatisfactory to every man who expected relief. Whether the report of that Committee was drawn up by the Chairman, by Mr. Huskinson, or by an able political economist, it matters not; it is the instrument of the Committee, and has now become a document. To the great body of the country, to the whole agricultural interest, forming the foundation of national wealth, it is the most futile, inoperative, and abortive production that ever proceeded from such labours. "Parturient montes nascitur ridiculus mus!" As to that pretended boon, the repeal of the Agricultural Horse Tax, it might be some trifling advantage, but to call it a *relief* is a perfect mockery; it is a mere drop of water in the ocean that overwhelms us. One of the causes of the distress of the country, is said to be **ABUNDANCE**; I have heard this approved by the Prime Minister of England. Gentlemen, if this be the case, what becomes of our efforts and our industry? What becomes of our skill in cultivation, and the judicious application of labour and manure, if the results may thus confound our exertions, and become the destruction of the country. (Applause.) It is impossible to believe so absurd an inference, and no words can express my abhorrence of such a doctrine! If skill and labour are thus productive of mischief, my friend, here, I will venture to say, is the most mischievous man alive! (Laughter and applause.) His grace concluded by paying some elegant and forcible compliments to Mr. Coke, who from his earliest

days he had looked upon as a perfect model of an English Gentleman; and thanking the company for the honour he had received. (Great applause.)

Mr. Coke then gave "A worthy branch of a noble stock, the marquis of Tavistock," with three times three, which was drank with great applause. The noble marquis briefly returned thanks.

There is another branch (said Mr. Coke) yet in the house, a son of Lord William Russell, whose health I beg to give, with three times three. (Great applause.)

The young gentleman, in returning thanks, said the only claim he could have to the honor he had received, was the name he bore, as he was too young to merit any thing on his own account.

Mr. Coke then gave the health of Lord Althorp, who, from his skill and celebrity as a breeder of Short Horns, he had requested to act as a judge of the cattle. His Lordship's health was drank with great applause.

Lord Althorp, in returning thanks, said he received

the applause with more greatful feelings, as coming from the yeomanry of England. "I am too young (said his Lordship) to give information. I accepted the office of one of the judges, though I feel myself unequal to the task; but I consider it my duty to do the best in my power on all occasions in which I am called upon, and should feel ungrateful for the good opinions of others if I did not accede to their wishes: in the present instance my want of skill will be made up by the more matured knowledge of able colleagues. Something I ought to say respecting the disappointment of the public expectations in the Report of the Agricultural Committee. I attended it until attendance made me ill, (Applause,) and was then obliged to desist. Every man who reads the Report must see that no good can result, and perhaps a great many of those who looked for relief, were mistaken in their object. I am bound myself to declare that *taxation* is the cause of distress, (Applause,) and must be relieved to give prosperity to the agricultural community.

Every one must be aware that such a subject would not be touched upon in the Report of such Committee, but from the evidence delivered, the truth is established, and this may lead to the true and only remedy." (Applause.) His Lordship then observed that he very gladly reverted to agricultural topics, and begged to say a few words in regard to the different breeds of cattle. It was too much the custom of those who bred one kind, to decry all others; not but that a natural preference must be felt for the sort individually kept, and a laudable pride in their excellence or superiority; but after all, one breed could not be the best for all soils, and he believed that though the Devons were best adapted to light soils, the Short Horns were more profitable on rich soils. The great merit of the Durham cattle, undoubtedly was early maturity; the Devons they had seen there certainly approached very near to perfection in their kind; but besides the adaptation to rich soils there were also various objects held in view; and the yoke, the dairy, and the shambles, offered several motives of preference which would be hardly united in any one race. His Lordship concluded by returning thanks, and drinking the health of the company. (Applause.)

Mr. Coke then, with some handsome compliments, gave the health of "Lord Nugent," which was received with loud applauses.

His Lordship, in returning thanks, addressed the company in a very elegant and forcible manner. He began by thanking Mr. Coke for that partiality of which he had received so many testimonies. He (Mr. Coke) had alluded to the introduction of the Drill Husbandry into Buckinghamshire: it was true that he (Lord Nugent) had done all that lay in his power to promote so desirable an object, for what he learned in Norfolk he was happy to teach in his native country: how far he had succeeded he desired to spare Mr. Coke the mortification of hearing, for certainly his improvement and progress had been in no proportion to his instruction. "I come here (said his Lordship) to learn lessons that sink deep in my mind, and I should not envy the head and heart of any man who could receive them unmoved. I see here how a land-

lord may be made illustrious, a tenantry prosperous, and a people happy! (Applause) I see here an union of affection, an union of interests, and their happy results on the face of society and the country. I see near our truly noble host one illustrious from rank,—illustrious from blood, but peculiarly so from character and conduct. (Applause.) I see him descend from his high station, to mix with the yeomanry,—to be the patron of sciences; the encourager of charities, and, allow me to say, the support and champion of public liberty. (Great applause.) This is his great distinction, that he is endeared to every one by his worth; not from his rank, not from his blood and connections, not from a long line of illustrious ancestry,—but by the glory he derives from virtuous actions, which shall live to after ages, when diadems and coronets have sunk to dust." (Great applause.) His Lordship then alluded to the impossibility pointed out by Mr. Coke, of being now silent on public affairs; indeed no one could help looking to the ruinous consequences of those measures which were now so bitterly felt, and must justly fill every heart with alarm, and every mouth with outcries. For his own part he attributed the whole mischief to a headlong and desperate expenditure, which required and had been supported by an excessive and grinding taxation. (Applause.) Taxation was the beginning, middle, and end of all our evils. (Applause.) It had been used without wisdom, without moderation, and without controul; it has been applied to every purpose; necessary and unnecessary, good and bad; to purposes of national defence, and of childish vanity; and above all, to purposes of unbounded and gross corruption. (Loud Applause). By these means we had compromised our safety—we had lived beyond our income, and we had ruined the country with rapacity. Now, what was the plain and direct remedy to such a course? Suppose a prodigal and extravagant man were to find his resources fail, and come to a wise friend and counsellor for advice. He says, "I have ruined my fortune; I am undone with expense; for the last five and twenty years I have lived beyond my income, and plunged into the most heedless and disproportionate extravagance, and this is the consequence. What must I do?" "Why," says his friend, "what should you do but live *within* your income for the next five and twenty years?" "Oh!" but says he, "my horses and carriages—my footmen and liveries—my parks and palaces—all my dignity and splendour; my rank will not suffer the least diminution! Not a rag of red cloth,—not a yard of lace,—not a gaud,—not a feather can I spare! My pride will be humbled,—my friends will fall off—."

"Truly," says the other, "they are *trencher friends*, as you seem to be aware, (Great Applause,) and you are a fit tenant for Bedlam in trusting to them so long." "But," continued his Lordship, "although the cases are somewhat parallel, yet the conclusion is not; it is impossible that the nation should sink to imbecility by the evils that oppress it; rather it should be roused to consider the full extent of the evils, and to apply a proper remedy. If I am asked *how* is this to be done? I answer by putting the pledge of economy to every candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. There still is really and truly a constitutional power to redress our grievances, if the people will do their duty. We have shining examples of this fact. Look at Wiltshire, so well represented in its Member here present. (Applause.) Look at Essex, represented here. (Applause.) Look at Kent, represented here. (Applause.) Look at Northamptonshire.—Look at Bedfordshire.—Look at Westminster.—Look at Aberdeen; and last, though not least, look at the head of this table, and see how Norfolk is represented here! (This climax was accompanied and followed with a tumult of applause.) His Lordship thanked the company, and sat down amidst continued cheers.

"The High Sheriff of the county of Norfolk."  
"Breeding in all its branches."

(To be continued.)

BOSTON, OCT. 16, 1821.

## BRIGHTON CATTLE SHOW—1821.

*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society at the late Brighton Cattle Show.**Continued from page 243.*

This interesting exhibition took place on Wednesday, the 13th of October. The Agricultural Society, after their meeting for the transaction of business, went in procession to the church, where an address was delivered by the Rev. Mr. COLMAN. The committee then proceeded to the examination of the Domestic Animals and Manufactures exhibited. The pens for the exhibition of animals were better filled, as far as we could judge, than on former occasions, and by a large proportion of very beautiful animals. The kinds of animals exhibited were considered as evincing in the most satisfactory manner, the continued improvement in the stock of our farmers. The exhibition of Manufactures, embraced a great variety of articles of excellent fabric.

The members of the society dined together at Dudley's tavern. A very large number of members of the society and of other gentlemen from various parts of the state, assembled to witness this exhibition. The concourse of spectators, was probably greater than on any former occasion.

*Ploughing Match.*—The ploughing match, and the trial of working oxen, took place the next day. In the former there were seven competitors, and in the latter eleven. The ploughing was remarkably well executed, and the show of working oxen, was pronounced superior to any former exhibition.

In the afternoon the Reports of the several committees, by which the premiums were awarded were read in the Church, where the Society met, and other persons attended. The competition for premiums was on a great variety of objects, and for many of the premiums there was a great number of competitors. The duty of deciding on the claims of the several candidates was assigned to several committees who made separate reports.

The First report was published in our last—they will be continued, until all shall have appeared.

*Agricultural Dinner.*—At the Dinner in Dudley's Hall, in Brighton, the following toasts, among others were given.

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*—May it be always problematical, in which she most excels, Commerce, Manufactures, or Agriculture.

*The Nursing Mother of Law, Physic and Divinity;—of Trades, Manufactures and Commerce;—Agriculture.*

*Our Fellow Citizens*—May they be always esteemed the best Ploughmen on the ocean and on the land.

*Our Soil*—May it be forever free and forever unchanged.

*The Sea and the Land*—May our citizens make fish of one and flesh of the other.

*The Military Farmer*—Armed with his Pruning Knife, Scythe, and Hoe, may he cut up and extirpate all his enemies.

The greatest and best farmer in the world, and one of the staunchest and earliest friends of America, Mr. Coke of Norfolk, Great Britain, who for forty years has toasted our Washington, as the greatest man the world has ever produced.

*The Grafton Agricultural Society of New Hampshire*—We bid her delegate welcome:—as farmers, we are all brothers; earth, our common mother.

By Mr. QUINCY, delegate from the Grafton Agricultural Society. *The Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture*—Our common parent, to whom as children we look up for support and instruction.

By his excellency Gov. BROOKS. *Farmers*—May they, who feed the world, be themselves well fed.

By His Hon. Lieut. Gov. PHILIPS.—*The Farmers*—May science guide, and industry sustain them.

By the President—*The Orator of the Day*—Who

has taught us the true doctrines of Agriculture, in the true spirit of a Christian.

By the Hon. John Davis. *The College Farm*—\* Enjoying its good fruits, may the whole country heartily respond to the injunction—“Save the Seed.”

\* Referring to a Watermelon of enormous size, sent from the College Farm, with the injunction, “Save the Seed.”

## NO. 2.

The Committee of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, appointed to decide on the Premiums for Sheep and Swine, offered at the Cattle Show at Brighton,

## REPORT :

That they award the premium for the best sow to John Prince, Esq. for that sow which he denominates his Essex and Blue China—\$10.

The second premium to Dr. Francis Moore, of Brighton, for a sow, from White's imported English breed—\$5.

The premium for the best Boar, of the breed denominated White's breed, mixed, to Luke Fisk, of Waltham—\$10.

The premium for the second best Boar, to the \* Town of Cambridge, being of the Byefield mixed breed—\$5.

The premium for the best Store pigs, to Josiah Hovey—\$10.

The premium for the second best Store Pigs, to James Robbins—\$5.

For the premium on Merino Sheep, the Committee regret that there was no competition, Gen. Austin being the owner of all which were offered.

The Merino Wethers, your Committee deemed to be well entitled to the first premium, both for form and flesh, and they accordingly award it—\$20.

The Merino Ram, exhibited by Gen. Austin, the Committee did not deem to be of so superior a quality as to be entitled to the first premium, but they award the second, of \$10.

Your Committee were of a similar opinion in relation to his Ewes. They therefore award the second premium, of \$10.

For the premium on native Wethers, there was also no competition. They deem those offered by Stephen Howe, worthy of a first premium, and they accordingly award it—\$10.

For the committee.

JOSIAH QUINCEY, Chairman.

\* The Said Boar belonging to the Poor-House establishment of that town.

## NO. 3.

The Committee of the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, on the subject of Inventions,

## REPORT :

That the Machine called the Flaxseed Separator, offered by Mr. Hotchkiss, of Brattleborough, Vermont, embraces all the particulars specified in his statement, and is entitled to the premium proposed by the Society, of \$20.

A Washing Machine was presented by Mr. Hodgdon, of Newton for exhibition only, and not for premium, which consists of a Rotatory Tub, turned by a crank, operating on a horizontal block, the sides of which are planes inclined towards the centre of the tub, and doing its work chiefly by pressure—was put to trial in the family of Mr. Dudley, Innholder, Brighton, under the direction of your Committee. On examination, all the persons who were experienced in such operations, and who had worked with it; and others, who had seen its effect, unanimously declared their opinion that it was the best machine for this purpose they had ever seen, and that it had done as much work in one hour, as it would have taken the same hand half a day to have performed in the ordinary way. This Machine would have been entered for premium, had it not been for a misapprehension concerning our rules, for which Mr.

Hodgdon is not responsible. Under the circumstances your Committee recommend to the Trustees to award to Mr. Hodgdon, considering the nature of the Machine and its apparent utility, the sum of \$10.

A Rotatory Churn, having a horizontal movement, was entered by Mr. Jennison for a premium. The only evidence in relation to it was that given by Gorham Parsons, Esq. who, although favourably impressed towards it, yet preferred much the Churn presented to the Society by John Mickey. Under these circumstances your Committee did not deem themselves authorised to award any premium.

A Machine for Threshing Grain constructed upon a good, and as far as your Committee was apprized upon a new principle, was presented by Mr. Asa Shattuck, of Pepperell. A model only of the machine was presented, so that your Committee could not have the advantage of seeing its operations personally. The evidence adduced, was satisfactory, so far as it related to the trials therein specified. Your Committee, however, from the evidence before them, were of opinion, that its effect was not superior to that for which a premium was formerly granted to Mr. Hotchkiss: nor did the evidence of the trials to which this machine had been subjected amount, in the opinion of your Committee, to proofs of that continued farming use, by a practical farmer, which in their apprehension according to the promulgated rules of the Trustees, would justify them in deciding that it is “the best, the simplest, and least expensive Machine for threshing wheat and other small grains.”

A Machine for Threshing and Winnowing Wheat, was presented by Mr. Gragg, of Londonderry.—This machine was complete, and performed its work excellently—in both operations. It is simple and considering its objects, not expensive, the cost complete being forty dollars: and it was said to be well calculated to thresh grain mown as well as reaped. The proprietor had however brought with him no certificates, nor had your Committee any opportunity of putting it to such trial as would justify their awarding any premium. They think so well of the Machine, that they are of opinion, that if the proprietor shall adduce certificates within three months of what it is capable of performing, and if said certificates shall be satisfactory to the Board, as to all the particulars stated in the published regulations, he will be entitled to the premium.

An Invention was presented by Mr. Simon Willard, of Roxbury, for exhibition only, and not for premium, being an Alarm Clock, every part of which was executed in his own manufactory, excepting the glass. The work was neat, elegant and simple, and well adapted for its purposes; and in every respect worthy of that ingenious and distinguished clock maker.

A Lead Pipe for the conveyance of water, was also presented for exhibition only, by David Loring, the proprietor. The execution was neat, and as far as your Committee could judge, from inspection—it would answer all the purposes specified in the advertisement of Mr. Loring, the proprietor.

There were also several other articles offered for premium, but no person being present to explain the principles or the operation of the Machines, your Committee deem themselves discharged from the necessity of reporting upon them particularly.

For the Committee,

JOSIAH QUINCY Chairman.  
Brighton, Oct. 11th, 1821.

Recorded by Order of the Society in the American Farmer.

## Morgantown Agricultural Society. North Carolina.

A number of respectable citizens of Burke, having met at the Court House, in Morgantown, on the 4th day of July last, for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Society. D. TATE, Esq. having been appointed Chairman, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to draft a Constitution:—Col. W. W. Erwin, Col. J. T. Avery, Col. James Etwin, and James

Murphy, Esq. who reported the following which was unanimously adopted.

**Laws of the Morgantown Agricultural Society, as revised and passed at their first regular meeting—July 4, 1821.**

**Article 1**—The Society shall be styled the Morgan town Agricultural Society.

**Article 2**—The Society's attention shall be confined to agriculture and rural affairs. They will carefully avoid topics which are productive of dissension, or calculated to withdraw their attention from the objects of common concern.

**Article 3**—Every member subscribing to these articles, shall contribute one dollar or more annually, for a fund to be applied to the purposes of the society.

**Article 4**—The society shall consist of every individual friendly to its objects, provided he shall first have been nominated and elected by the ballots of two thirds of the members present.

**Article 5**—The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Assistant Secretary when the increase of business shall require it, and a Standing Committee of five members.

**Article 6**—The Society shall have five regular yearly meetings, and at the following periods. On the 4th day of July, on the return day of the Election, and on the first Wednesday in January, April, and October.

**Article 7**—The officers of the Society shall be elected annually by ballot on the 4th day of July, and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, removal out of the county, or from any other cause, the same shall be supplied by an election to be made at any stated meeting of the Society, the person or persons then newly elected to serve the remainder of the year.

**Article 8**—At all meetings of the Society, the President or in his absence such person as the Society shall elect pro. tem shall exercise the usual duties of that office. All motions shall be addressed to him, and on all questions he shall collect and declare the votes. He shall have power to call special meetings of the Society, by notice through the Secretary, at as many public places in the county as he shall direct. He shall with the standing committee have power to correspond with other societies or individuals on Agricultural subjects, and with the standing committee he shall attend to and regulate the pecuniary affairs of the Society, direct expenditures to be made when necessary by their order on the treasurer, whose duty it shall be to make a report thereof at the next regular meeting of the Society thereafter, which report shall be subject to the ratification or rejection of the said Society.

**Article 9**—The Secretary and by his direction the Assistant Secretary when appointed, shall have in charge all the books and papers of the Society, and keep the same in exact order; they shall also keep on regular files, all letters which shall be written by the President or Standing Committee or by themselves by order of the Committee, and at the stated regular meetings of the Society, submit the same for the further order of the Society.

**Article 10**—The Treasurer shall keep the accounts stated on the books of the Society, and when called on produce the same for inspection; but at the last regular meeting of every year and also whenever his office may end, he shall produce a fair and regularly stated account of all receipts, payments and expenditures, and deliver it together with the books and all other property of the Society in his hands, or which of right ought to be, to his successor in office, or to the order of the Society.

**Article 11**—A quorum for business shall consist of at least nine members.

**Article 12**—The Society shall be kept in order by the rules which are observed by the General Assembly of this state, for that purpose.

**Article 13**—Donations may be received by the Treasurer to be added to the funds of the Society.

**Article 14**—All such distinguished citizens of this state and of other states & countries whom the Society may elect for the purpose, shall be honorary members, and they are hereby invited to aid the Society,

and if convenient to assist at their meetings. Strangers who desire to be present as auditors may be introduced; and for that purpose each member shall be authorized to bring one friend along with him to any meeting.

**Article 15**—Whenever a new member is elected, it shall be the duty of the Secretary forthwith to notify him of his election, in the following form.

On the — day of —, 18 . A. B. of — was elected a member (or honorary member) of the Agricultural Society of Morgantown, the Society inviting his assistance. C. D. Secretary. Provided always, that no election for members shall take place except at one of the regular meetings of the Society.

**Article 16**—At the close of every regular annual meeting, the Treasurer shall lay before the Society a list of the members, specifying those who have and those who have not paid their contributions: and if the contribution of any member shall be found more than one year in arrears after the same shall have become due and payable, and if the same has been personally demanded of him by the Treasurer or Collector authorized by him for the purpose, such member shall be considered as withdrawing from the Society and be no longer deemed a member, and the same shall be entered on the minutes. Any member of the Society may withdraw from the same by sending a letter of resignation to the Secretary and paying up any arrears which at the time he may owe the institution.

**Article 17**—As a source of information and a means of gaining and diffusing useful knowledge auxiliary to practice, the Society shall as soon as the funds will admit, purchase a collection of books and models, and shall propose prizes for experiments and improvements in husbandry, in the manufactures connected with it, and for the improvement in the breeds of our domestic animals. To promote these views the friends of Agriculture are invited to assist the Society by furnishing facts, experiments, and incidents in husbandry.

**Article 18**—The Society shall have power to add to, alter or amend the present constitution, provided however that no addition, alteration or amendment to this constitution shall be adopted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present, at one of the five regular meetings of this Society.

**Article 19**—The Society shall hold their meetings in Morgantown, at such place as the standing committee shall provide for that purpose.

The Society having postponed the election of officers until the 10th of August, and having met on that day, the Rev. R. J. Miller having been appointed Chairman, the following gentlemen were elected officers.

**PRESIDENT.**

James Murphy, Esq.

**VICE PRESIDENT.**

Col. Isaac T. Avery.

**TREASURER.**

Major William Ballew.

**SECRETARY.**

Mr. John Murphy.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**

Mr. W. A. Erwin.

**STANDING COMMITTEE.**

Colonel W. W. Erwin, Major John M. Grunlie, Colonel James Erwin, John Rutherford, Esquire. Captain John B. Tate.

**VIRGINIA HUSBANDRY—EDITORIAL OBSERVATIONS THEREON.**

Upon this subject I took occasion in a former Number, to remark that "on the farm of Mr. N \* \* \* \*, near Battletown, my attention was drawn to a great improvement in the construction of the Ox-Shovel commonly used on Turn-

pike roads; but here employed for making ponds, to gather rain water, for Stock.—In what that improvement exactly consisted, I cannot now state, but I recollect that, without giving complication to the implement, it gathered the earth more rapidly, and delivered itself of its burden more easily than the one in common use."

I have since been kindly furnished with a sketch, from which the engraving below has been made, and which, though in some particulars erroneous, will enable the reader to understand the form and use of the machine. Amongst other purposes to which it may be well applied, its utility in making and mending roads, in cleaning ditches and dunghills—scraping together the remains of barn yards, wood piles, &c. &c. for making compost, is obvious.



The two long lines running parallel with each other, marked A represent the shafts which may be from 10 to 12 feet in length. The two lines marked B, designate the braces—C the axle from which the box is suspended—D the sockets made of iron for the reception of each end of the axle, sufficiently large for it to work freely—it is necessary for the box to be larger at the end marked E, which is open as you will discover by the model enclosed. You will also discover that the box is provided with handles, so that the labourer can bear on them when filled with mud or earth, by which the axle turns and raises the box or receiver on a level—so that the driver can move off without losing any of his load—F also represents the staples to which the chains are fastened.

The error in the engraving consists in representing the box as resting on, instead of being suspended below the axis; which is done by means of an iron strap half an inch thick, passing round the body of the box and running up above the top of the sides of the box, about six inches; to give room for two holes, large enough to go over each end of the axis, and to bear the weight of the box when full of earth. The axis on which the box hangs and turns, may be made of a tough piece of wood one and a half or two inches thick, fastened on the top and across the shafts by means of two iron staples drove into the shafts to keep the weight of the box from pressing downwards or towards the driver. The handles should be fastened to the bottom, side, and end; and project three feet behind the body of the box, giving thus, to the driver, the same command that he would have over a plough—

When the box is full, bear slightly on the handles and all the weight then rests on the shafts or axis. I was told by Mr. N. that he had removed more mud from his ponds in three hours with a man and horse, than six carts and ten men could in a day with spades and shovels—in the formation of ponds it is especially preferable to these latter implements, in as much as it acts like a trowel, and *plasters* smoothly the fine sediment at the bottom, which is thereby rendered impervious. The box should be clamped at different points by straps of iron riveted on; and the bottom should consist of oak or other hard plank, inch thick, the front whereof should be shod with iron.

## Editorial Correspondence.

Meridian Hill, October 26, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

When we reflect, that the nation having at command the most timber suited for naval purposes, even if she had not a ship on the ocean, provided her other means were equal, is in the best condition to become the most formidable naval power, the suggestions contained in the enclosed letter will appear deserving of every attention.

To provide the means of national defence is certainly the duty of those placed in the government; and it would appear to me that the culture of Trees for naval and military purposes, is an object nearly equal in importance to the formation of military roads, and that our soldiery and others in the public pay, and not otherwise engaged, might be thus employed to advantage.

It cannot be expected that individuals in this or any other country will engage in farming extensive plantations of forest trees without the hope of some reward for their trouble; and this reward will always be in proportion to the demand for, and scarcity of timber, nor will they be satisfied here unless the reward is speedy.

In this country, to supply our wants it is easier to remove our families to where timber is more abundant than to cultivate trees for private uses. In England there could be no advantage in this respect, from a change of residence, as the whole country is equally destitute of forests. In the one case, then, there is no inducement for exertion; in the other, necessity and a rich reward call for every effort that can be made to increase the number of forest trees.

The father who leaves to his children in this country a well stocked forest, leaves to them a rich inheritance—how much more so is it then in England. It is too common an expression with us “this will serve my time;” an enlightened policy should induce us to look forward to the day when our population, our resources and our importance may equal the most extravagant speculations of enthusiasts.

We are not an ephemeral nation—we have an important part to act on this world's stage—let us look then to the future and judge of it from the past. Carry your imagination back four hundred years this country was a wilderness. Four hundred years is a brief space in time what an aspect does it now present? what was then considered an inexhaustible source, is nearly exhausted; complaints every where exist of a scarcity of wood for the common purposes of life—look at the date of the letter I send you Tennessee, a place not thought of a century ago, even there a scarcity is felt; and in a short time hence the same complaint will be made from beyond the Rocky Mountain. A gentleman from Kentucky, of high political standing and every way qualified to judge, informed me a few days since that they felt in that state seriously the want of wood for ordinary purposes; and from the best information I can collect from all quarters, there cannot be a doubt that in every part of our country now settled, the want of wood is already ex-

perienced. Abundance has hitherto produced waste, and want is now the consequence.

We have yet a sufficiency left, however, if we economize, but if we continue to destroy as we have done, there is no calculating where the evil will end. Reservations ought to be made of large tracts of lands containing timber suited for naval purposes; measures ought to be taken to guard them against depredation: and, as the writer of the letter observes, oaks or some other useful tree ought to take the place of Lombardy Poplars around all our public works. Let it be remembered also that according to the old adage, every man is bound to do three things; and that to plant a tree is one of them.

With great respect your obedient servant,

D. PORTER.

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

Kingston, Tennessee, Oct. 6, 1821.

SIR,

I have read with much pleasure your observations on timber and its use, printed in the American Farmer—it will be of great benefit to your fellow citizens I hope. I beg leave to suggest to you that on all public grounds about Navy Yards, where practicable, that the Navy Board direct the planting of oaks, or some trees as useful for the navy, in place of the Lombardy Poplar now used. I think such an arrangement will do much towards getting the people to think about preserving their timber, for as you observe it is fast leaving us. I would also suggest the planting one or two acres in young oaks to ascertain their growth, for I think it will be found they will grow nearly as much in one year here as in the north of Europe in two. The War Department might adopt the same round or about their Forts and Arsenals. Please think on this, and also what name it will one day give the man, who having it in his power, is the cause of commencing such a system.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

Commodore D. PORTER.

## THE EFFECT OF LIGHT ON VEGETABLES;

From Reese's Encyclopedia.

“ We have already stated a fact discovered recently by Malus, that Light acquires new properties by a peculiar reflection. Does it then appear impossible, that it should not be changed in passing through diaphanous media? May not that which moves with the greatest velocity, have a greater portion converted into heat; or in other words, may not this conversion be as the velocity? This idea is strengthened, from the circumstance of Caloric rays being found throughout the spectrum. The greatest objection raised to this idea of light and heat being excited by the same rays moving with different velocities, are founded on the facts of combined light in phosphorescent bodies, and in the chemical effects, which were thought to be peculiar to light. In our next subject, however, we shall shew that all the chemical effects producible by light, can be produced by heat.

Besides the properties of the solar beams to produce heat and light, we find them to have other properties equally important to the animated world. This is most conspicuous in the economy of vegetables. It has been many times proved, that vegetables, growing without light, would not, in the first place, have more tendency to grow upwards, than in any other direction. This arises from an evident attraction arising between light and living vegetables. This fact is familiar to those who have placed

trees in windows. It is observable, that they always lean towards the light. The same effect would doubtless take place, if one side of a vegetable were shaded in the open air. The attraction of light is probably not the same for the different vegetables, by which we may account for the different forms of trees. This is rendered plausible when we contrast the spreading branches of the Oak, with the towering branches of the Poplar.

Experience has long ago established, that vegetables become destitute of smell and flavour, and lose much of their combustibility, by growing in the dark. We find in Dr. Black's lectures, an account given by the celebrated Dr. Robinson of Edinburgh. In the drain of a coal-work under ground, he accidentally laid his hand upon a very luxuriant plant, with large indented foliage, and perfectly white. He had not seen any thing like it, nor could any one inform him what it was. He had the plant with a sod brought into the open air in the light. In a little time the leaves withered, and soon after, new leaves began to spring up, of a green colour, and of a different shape from that of the old ones. On rubbing one of the leaves between his fingers, he found that it had the smell of common Tansey, and ultimately proved to be that plant, which had been so changed by growing in the dark. Indeed it was recollect that some soil had been taken into the drain from a neighbouring garden some time before it was found so altered.

This effect of light is not less conspicuous in the growth of Celery. By covering it with earth, the light is shut out, which would soon turn it green, and make its flavour so strong as to render it unfit to be eaten, at the same time that it would render it more fibrous and tenacious.

From the circumstance of light giving odour and inflammability to vegetables, and since these properties are most common to bodies containing hydrogen, it would appear that light was essential to the production of hydrogen, perhaps by expelling oxygen; and hence it would also appear that hydrogen is necessary to the colour of vegetables. It has been asserted by Humboldt, that he found vegetables growing in the dark mine, having their natural colour, but these plants were enveloped by hydrogen.”

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

LEWISVILLE, S. C., Oct. 19th, 1821:

“ I had just been preparing a statement for you, of my success in yearly selecting my seed-corn, when your 27th number of the Farmer, arrived, containing Mr. Cook's letter to you on the same subject. It has been highly gratifying to me to find my own experiment so well supported.—I, also, commenced, in 1815 to select my corn for seed, and found it difficult to find a sufficient number of stalks with two ears to give me a sufficiency for seed—it was almost as difficult this year to find in my field as many stalks with only one ear; and I have now gathered my seed corn from stalks bearing three ears. My neighbours were struck with the appearance of my field, and acknowledged that there might be something in the selection of

seed: some of them are beginning to follow my example.

I have had for seven years about half an acre of Lucerne under cultivation—it was drilled fifteen inches apart—was well manured every autumn, the manure dug in with a mattock, and it was hoed three or four times thro' the summers.—I get from six to nine cuttings from it, according as the season is wet or dry—its height at the first cutting is usually three feet—and it generally gives me abundance for six horses three times a day, besides a feed for four cows at milking time—but to my astonishment, my 6th cutting this year, which was in the end of August, salivated my horses—and it has continued to do so ever since, and obliged me to stop the use of it—it has never produced the slightest effect of the kind before. This has been a wet summer, but not more so than 1817 was; and to be sure that the salivation was not produced by clover, or any other substance mixed with it, I had a basket of it carefully hand-picked and given in the stable to my horse, and in half an hour afterwards he was slabbering just as if he had been in a clover field. The object of this communication to you, Sir, is to request you would obtain me information through the aid of the American Farmer—whether Lucerne has ever shewn the same ill effect elsewhere, or if I may hope it is only an anomalous instance arising out of some peculiarity of the season—it is a most valuable grass for soiling, and pays well the extra labour of its culture."

*Messrs Printers.*—The accompanying observations being designed for the public, you will oblige the writer by giving them a place in your paper.

#### CURE FOR THE DYSENTERY.

In one gill of fountain water dissolve as much common table or sea salt, as it will take up or melt, add to it one gill of good vinegar.

Of this mixture, give once in a quarter or half an hour, to grown persons, or to children, such doses as the stomach will bear without puking. If a considerable portion of the essence of peppermint be added, it will be a valuable improvement of the medicine.

The sick person may drink freely of Port, Madeira, or any good wine; or if these cannot be procured, he may drink French brandy or common spirits moderately diluted with water and sweetened with sugar.

To a refined ear, the Muriate of Soda might have sounded more agreeably, than common table or sea salt. The dysentery, however, is not seated in the ear; and as this malady so often fatal, may reach the humble cottage, it is hoped that its simple garb will not preclude him from a knowledge of the remedy.

The symptoms which prevailed in those cases where the writer of this sketch applied the above described remedy, are at first a sensation in the stomach almost like that of hunger, followed quickly by lacerating, or cutting like pains through the whole ductus alimentis or alimentary canal, these followed by frequent evacuations streaked with blood; a tenesmus; a pain symptomatic in the head and loins; a loss of appetite, fever and general lassitude or loss of strength. He has known the symptoms come on exactly in this order; but in every case, which he considered a real dysentery, the above treatment has succeeded.

It has been said that Mr. Perkins, the vendor of the metallic tractors, recommended salt and vinegar in the dysentery. The writer of this sketch disclaims originality.

In Woodbury, Conn. where the dysentery became epidemic, it baffled other modes of treatment, and salt and vinegar became a common and efficacious remedy. Being resorted to in diarrhoea, probably not

of a dysenteric nature, it appeared to be a means of no utility; and from this circumstance partly, and partly from the ostentation, at least of pretenders to science, the vulgar remedy of salt and vinegar seems to have become unfashionable, or otherwise never to have acquired general notice.

When the writer of this sketch had nearly completed his medical education, he became sick of a dysentery. The symptoms had risen to a considerable height before he had recourse to medicine. He was advised to the use of opium. He neglected it, recollecting what is above related of the use of salt and vinegar in Woodbury, which was about eight years previous; he had recourse to it. In twelve hours he was free from symptoms of the complaint, except the consequent debility.

A young gentleman of respectable talents, considerably advanced in his medical education, described the earliest supervening symptoms of a dysentery. They were as violent in degree as is usual in that stage of the disease, and clearly marked. It was moreover, when the complaint prevailed. He was advised to the use of salt and vinegar. His preceptors, to whom I was on a visit, laughed at the idea. He used it—Some hours after he was rallied on the subject, he said "I have arrested my complaint." The principal characteristic symptom did not appear and the others subsided.

On a visit to another kinsman, his infant child, for a dysentery, had been under medical treatment for a week or ten days. A council to the best of my recollection, had been called, and the physicians, for more than one had attended it, seemed to despair of its life. By the use of salt and vinegar it soon seemed evidently to be better. The remedy was continued. Soon the child seemed to be much distressed, and cried as if in great pain. The abdomen was swelled and seemed to be spasmotic. In this situation, the salt and vinegar, without having apprehended any hurtful effect from it, was discontinued. The child became quiet and rested well through the night—the next day to ensure the health of the child the remedy was again advised and exhibited. The same round of symptoms, the benefit excepted, supervened; and again the pain seemed to subside, and the child became quiet, omitting the exhibition. The gas, eliminated by consequence of chemical affinities, by its abundance or peculiar properties seemed to induce distension, spasm and pain. No doubt this remedy may be exhibited to a nocent extent in so tender a subject. After a subsidence of these distressing symptoms the child appeared to be free from complaint, the debility excepted. The efficacy of the remedy has been proved in Carolina.

If real dysentery, immediately consequent to the exhibition of this remedy, the languor of the countenance subsides, the eye becomes enlightened; the speech is more articulate and prompt; the voice is stronger; the patient, before he is apprised of it, becomes cheerful, and if not too far reduced, forgets himself and walks across the room. The subsidence out travels the apprehension of the splenetic, and on enquiry he looks round for his complaint as for a thing that is evidently lost.

Having rendered this service in the manner which seems to me most likely to be useful to my fellow citizens—to the poor and distressed; I would now faint retire. But what are these remarks? Who at the dreadful tribunal of the public opinion, shall be responsible for their consequences, or rescue them from the deserved neglect of anonymous imposition?

The public's humble servant,  
Charleston Cour.] CALEB ABERNETHY.

#### AN OBJECT WORTHY OF LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION.

FROM THE AMERICAN.

In the present state of the country, every suggestion calculated to ameliorate the condition of the people is entitled to consideration: and therefore I present to the public attention

some reflections on the policy of our mortgage laws.

It is believed, that *real estate* is always a solid security for money advanced from one individual to another; and therefore it would seem expedient, that our laws should be so framed as to enhance that security. In Maryland, the value of real estate is greatly diminished, by the difficulties and delays in foreclosing mortgages, when given to secure the repayment of monies loaned.

In commercial communities, banks offered great facilities to men in business, by discounting what is called *real paper* on good personal security. But it is not considered regular in banking, to loan money on accommodation, not even with the security of *real estate*. And it is very much questioned, whether in these times, the banks could be induced to loan their funds to accommodate needy men, though secured by *real estate*. \* This is particularly true in Maryland; because the delay, expense and difficulties in availing of the security takes away from its imagined solidity.

But, with individuals who have capital to loan, there would be great inducements to advance upon securities, which may not be desirable to banks. In the country there are many gentlemen possessed of large landed estates, who are known to be embarrassed by considerable debts. They find their estates to afford them no facilities in procuring accommodations: and the reason is notorious; monied men are deterred from loaning to them, on account of the mortgage laws: the lender having no security that he can compel the return of his money, without expense and trouble that are not to be compensated by the legal interest. This consideration takes from the value of real estate in Maryland.

I am fully persuaded that much of the embarrassment of our fellow citizens of the country, would be removed, by a total change of the mortgage laws. And the benefit of the change would not be confined to the accommodation of those in debt—but every owner of a fee simple estate would be benefited by it.—Estates would be improved in value, by the greater circulation of money throughout the state.

\* But when begging the Legislature for their exclusive privileges, they preach a different doctrine!! The Legislature by whom these charters of monopoly, for manufacturing money, have been granted, were professedly the R-representatives of *Farmers*; and hence we see over certain doors "The Commercial and Farmer's," and the "Farmer's and Merchants," &c. &c. but after all a farmer with his five-hundred acres of rich land, well stocked, could not borrow \$1000 for twelve months, to save his property from execution, and his family from ruin, unless peradventure he could get on his note the all sanctifying name of some *Town Gentleman* "of credit," some Jeremy Didler, who borrows from Peter to-day, to pay Paul to-morrow; and from Thomas to-morrow, to pay Peter the next day. On the other hand, the law ought to give the lender greater facility and despatch, in coming at the property of the borrower; this would ensure punctuality.

The advantages intimated would be immediately perceived in selling and buying property of every description. Competition would be created in every instance when property may be brought into the market. The operation of the change proposed, would not only bring relief to the debtor but likewise to the creditor: for it happens that nine times in ten, the creditor suffers as much for the want of his money, as the debtor does embarrassment in procuring it.

I propose then, after these preliminary explanations, that the process of foreclosing mortgages be simplified: and instituted in the county courts by a petition of the mortgagee, praying at the first term a rule *nisi*, to be made absolute at the second term, unless cause to the contrary be shewn by the mortgagor. By such a process, without prescribing more minutely the practice to be adopted by the courts, a foreclosure may be had in six months, and the creditor be put into the possession of his rights, without the toils and delay of a long chancery proceeding.

Indeed the benefits of the system proposed would be greatly enhanced, by allowing the clerks of the county courts, on application of the mortgagee, to issue a rule *nisi* to be served on the mortgagor, which may be made absolute at the first ensuing term, unless cause to the contrary be shewn by the mortgagor. It is believed, that in the same proportion that the delay and difficulties of the present system should be cancelled, and expedition and certainty substituted by a system entirely new, would the benefits become greater to the whole country.—In many other states mortgages may be foreclosed in from ten to sixty days. In some they may be foreclosed forthwith, in the Offices of the Clerks of the courts: and cannot be stopped by any frivolous pretence on the part of the mortgagor, who is made liable to the penalty of ten, twenty and thirty *per centum* on the amount of debt, if he obstruct, without sufficient cause, the ulterior proceeding. In those states, real estate is deemed the best security, and made the basis of long and cheap loans; the safety of the principal and the regular payment of the interest being always the concern of capitalists.

#### BALTIMORENSIS.

—  
To the Editor of the American Farmer.

#### RAT KILLING,

IN ANSWER TO MR. JEREMIAH SIMPLE.

Mr. Skinner,

Sir—In your "American Farmer" I saw a plan, illustrated by the celebrated Mr. Simple, for "killing rats". He states that this method was discovered by his great grand uncle, Nehemiah Simple, Esq. and that it has long remained a secret in the family of Simples. Now, Sir, let me assure you that, I most heartily wish it had continued to be a "secret" till doomsday, before I had undertaken to kill them by such a process. For I did not only incur the most serious inconvenience from trying it, by depriving myself of the use of my barn-floor for several days; but, I do believe that, as Jeremiah

says, my barn has become the general rendezvous, within the last four or five days, for all the rats in the neighbourhood, for several miles round; and I now expect to be compelled to put my own way of killing, into operation before I can, in any degree, get rid of them. But before I say any thing of this, let me state the result of my trial of Nehemiah Simple's RAT TRAP:—I, according to prescription, strewed the barn floor with Indian-meal; and, in less than a "fortnight"—yes, even in two days! I could hear nothing at all but "rigadoons, chassés and balances," or noise enough to raise the dead, as old aunt Margery used to say, when any of her dishes happened to fall and break.—What a sad affair was this! all my children kept from their respective avocations, to be employed in making paper and parchment caps, which to my shame, when I went into the barn in marshall order, armed with a cudgel big enough to lay a giant in the dust, I found torn into ten thousand pieces, and not a single rat blind folded—but instead of that, every rascal of them, darted like lightning to their respective holes—and after each, with a great deal of good will, I could have thrust Jeremiah's head! Yes, with all my heart, I wish he were overhead and ears in the "dark mud" in our marsh.—Now, Mr. Skinner, you must know the useless and sad effects of these simple rat traps; and among all the simpletons of the Simple family, I am almost ready to style myself the greatest. However, you will do well by spreading the fact before your readers, of this rat trap's being worse, than good for nothing—at the same time I must beg of you, to make my method known for killing rats, and which I believe to be a good one. It was invented by my great, great, grand father, "Robin Roughhead"; who at length, for his wisdom and benevolent heart, was made a Lord. His plan, which I now call mine, was to wear his hair very bushy, and place carelessly in his locks, crumbs of cheese—then to lie down in the rats' haunt, in a motionless attitude, with his eyes shut—after remaining in this posture for a few minutes the rats will commence a nibble at the cheese, at which time he makes a terrible grab with both hands, and never failed making two or three prisoners. I should not have adopted any other plan but this, only I thought it might be more expedient to knock them down with a stick.

One more remark and I have done—Mr. Simple states, "that he who kills a rat deserves more of his country, than he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before;" and if this really be the case, pray tell me what does Mr. Jeremiah Simple deserve for trying to raise two rats where only one was raised before?

I have the honor to subscribe myself,  
Your obedient servant,  
REUBEN ROUGHHEAD.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

#### Live Fence.

Friend John S. Skinner,

I am of the opinion, that the Bramble commonly called the Sweet Briar, *Rosa Eglanteria*, if properly

cultivated, would make the cheapest, handsomest, most durable and useful fence, that we can possibly obtain. I think it may be grown in three years, so as to be entirely impassable by any creature that we pretend to fence against. I do not pretend to know, what process would be most proper to use in germinating the seed, in order to have the quickest growth\* The seed is now fit to gather, and if thee would be so kind as to give this a place, it might induce some *perhaps many* enterprising farmers, to make experiments, which would be likely to disclose the most efficient mode of growing it. I have commenced some experiments, but have nothing to detail yet.

If any experiments have heretofore been made in growing the sweet briar, for the purpose of fencing, by any of thy correspondents, I should be pleased to hear the result.

Sincerely wishing well to the art of husbandry and thy noble undertaking, I remain thine with due respect,

GIDEON DAVIS.

George Town, D. C. 10th mo. 1821.

\* On this point, we submit the following Extracts from Mawe & Abercrombie's Universal Gardener and Botanist, to the notice of Mr. Davis, and others who may be disposed to test the value of the sweet briar as a hedge.

"London gardeners raise great quantities of sweet briar of the common single kind for sale, which they effect by sowing the seed in autumn, or spring, in drills an inch deep, and the plants either remain in hills or are transplanted.

"When required in any considerable quantity, the common single sweet briar should generally be raised from seed, sowing it in drills half an inch deep, either to remain or for transplantation; though when designed to form a sort of hedge to produce a crop of shoots to cut for the supply of markets during summer, it is eligible to sow the seed at once in a drill, where the plants are always to stand.

"And if sown in the autumn, soon after they are ripe, they will sometimes rise the following spring; but, if not sown 'till the spring they are most apt to remain 'till the following year before they rise freely."

#### A NEW WORK.

A NEW WORK. Proposals are issued at Charleston, for publishing by subscription, *Anecdotes of the Revolutionary war in America*, together with sketches of the characters of the men the most distinguished in the southern states, by their civil and military services," by an "Officer of the Partizan Legion.

"To preserve from oblivion the recollection of many brilliant achievements, which, from the encroachments of time perpetually removing, not only the actors by whom they were performed, but witnesses also, who could give testimony of their existence, is the cherished ambition of the author. In detailing acts of courage and magnanimity that honour the patriots of the revolution, it is equally his hope, to excite in the bosoms of his youthful countrymen, the desire to emulate them. The spontaneous impulse of every heart is his best auxiliary. How grateful to the youth of ambition must it ever be, to read the encomiums bestowed on his ancestors—to dwell on the merits of those great men who had wisdom to plan the deliverance of the United States from a foreign yoke, resolution to attempt it, and valor to insure their independence. In contemplating the dignified firmness of their characters, the extent of their sufferings, and the splendor of the actions achieved in the accomplishment of their momentous undertaking, the heart expands with gratitude—the soul with admiration. Liberty so-

honourably gained, appears with more fascinating charms, is cherished with imperishable affections, and the bosom of patriotism feels with full force, how sacred the obligation, to transmit such a blessing, with undiminished lustre, to posterity.

It can only be necessary to present to view, the characters, whose illustrious actions he would celebrate:

"And by their light

"Shall every valiant youth, with ardor move,  
"To do brave acts."—Shakspeare.

It is expected that the work will make between 5 and 600 pages 8vo.—and its price in boards will be \$3. The Editor of the *REGISTER* will receive orders for copies: so will the Editor of the *FARMER* with much pleasure. The name of the author is given to him, with the assurance of a much respected friend, that "he is a scholar, a man of fine taste, and a genuine patriot, who has not only drawn his sword to obtain the independence of his country, but was ready to defend that independence when assailed by the same foe thirty six years afterwards."

### HEMP.

A friend in the South, who has communicated several very useful papers for this journal, requests us to obtain information as to the cultivation and management of *Hemp*. Being ourselves, practically unacquainted with the subject, we ask the favor of some of our correspondents in Kentucky, or elsewhere, to give the information desired, and we will promise them very soon, to give in return, a very minute and valuable essay on the culture and management of *Tobacco*, as pursued in that district of Virginia where this article is brought to market in its highest state of perfection. — Request of our southern correspondent as to hemp.

*"I would esteem it a particular favor if you would furnish me with an account of the cultivation of hemp, nature of soil, in what manner planted, preparation of land, how many bushels planted to the acre, mode of attendance, when ripe enough to break, how to save the seed, how long to remain in the water to rot, the process after rotting, and any other instructions which you may deem necessary."*

**Improved Mode of cleaning Cotton, Extracted from a letter written by J. R. Bedford, Esq. near Florence, Alabama.**

At a more leisure time, than I am at present favoured with, I will send you a description of an invaluable improvement, as an appendage to cotton gins, which operates as a screen and fan, separating trash and dirt from the cotton, as the wheat fan separates chaff from wheat. Its principle is simple, and its construction easy. It has been recently brought into use in the vicinity of Natchez, and with the use of Carver's patent Gins, by many of the planters thereabouts, which separate the cotton from the seed without cutting or breaking the fibres, have acquired a character and commanded prices for their cotton in the New Orleans market, much beyond that which was brought from

other parts of Louisiana or Mississippi. Ten years ago, the cotton from the neighbourhood of Natchez was esteemed not better than Georgia upland or than good Tennessee, and 2 cents inferior to Red River cotton. During the last season it commanded two to four cents more than Red River cotton, and 3 to 6 and 7 cents more than Tennessee and Alabama.

### RAILWAY.

A new iron Railway has been invented in Bavaria. On an exactly horizontal surface, on this improvement, a woman or even a child may with apparent ease, draw a cart loaded with more than sixteen quintals. On another kind of Railway by the same inventor, in which there is an insensible descent of six inches and a quarter in 100 feet, a wagon will run alone without any external impulse. *It is proved that those iron Railings are two thirds better than the English, and only cost half as much. A single horse is equal to twenty two on the best common road.*

### THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1821.

The curious specimen of *Cotton*, said to have been spun like silk, by a worm, which we received under the Blandensburgh Post mark, has been sent to a gentleman of great observation and science, from whom we expect to hear on the subject.

The Editor will be thankful to any one who can supply him with a description of that wonderful curiosity, *Wigns Cave*, near Staunton, in Virginia—we have the *plan*, but want the description. It was written by General Calvin Jones, of North Carolina, and published some years ago in a Richmond Almanac, by a Mr Johnson.

We particularly congratulate our agricultural friends, on the intelligence of a rise in the price of their products in Europe; although further advices must be awaited before any settled prices current can be given. Another arrival, which is daily expected, will enable us to speak with more certainty, and at present we give the following, as the latest current prices:

WEDNESDAY, October 31.  
The sales of White Wheat this week have been at 160 a 180 cents—Red 140 a 170, one parcel as high as 178 early on Monday morning.

But a fair quotation for this day would be 150 a 152 for best red wheat of the State, and 100 a 165 for best white—Corn, 65 a 70—Rye, 65—Barley 65—Oats, 33 a 35. A lot of Barley sold on Saturday last for 70 cents.

THURSDAY, November 1.  
Sales to day of Red Wheat 150, 153, 155.

WHARF FLOUR.		
Friday	October 26	Superfine Flour 7 75
Saturday	27	7 50
Monday	29	7 25
Tuesday	30	7
Wednesday	31	7

### HOWARD-STREET FLOUR.

HOWARD-STREET FLOUR.		
Friday	October 26	Superfine Flour 8
Saturday	27	8
Monday	29	7 50
Tuesday	30	7
Wednesday	31	7

Whiskey, including barrel 33 cents.

MARYLAND TOBACCO, good Yellow \$16—Fine Red \$10—good do. 8—Common \$4 to 6—Second \$14 to 16.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO, a few hds. sold the present

week for \$5 50 and \$7—and one lot of 18 hds. at \$6 50.

KENTUCKY TOBACCO, 52 hds. at \$5.

Hickory Wood, selling at \$6 50—Oak do. \$5 50.

### Fruit Trees and Thorn Quicks for Sale.

The subscriber has now on hand, and intends keeping a constant supply of trees, of the best selected fruit, at his Nursery near Washington, D. C. Also a great quantity of Main's Virginia or American Hedging Thorn, at Five Dollars per thousand, which will be packed in hds, or boxes, so as to be sent with perfect safety to any part of the United States.

Virginia Thorn Seed prepared for sowing at two dollars per quart.

Pyricanthia Thorn at six dollars per thousand.

Pyricanthia Seed at five dollars per quart.

All orders from a distance, enclosing cash, or referring to some person near, who will become responsible for the payment, will meet with immediate and punctual attention.

JOSHUA PIERCE.

Georgetown, D. C., Oct. 26th, 1821.

### New and Improved WHEAT FAN.

The subscriber has for sale a New and Improved Wheat Fan, greatly superior to any that he has before seen—it cleans all kinds of Grain and Grass Seeds in a very superior manner—takes up less room, and works with half the force of those in general use—Price Thirty Dollars.

TURNIP CUTTERS, at cash \$30

APPLE MILLS, at cash \$50

DRILLS, at cash \$20 and \$25

Other MACHINERY equally low.

FARM and GARDEN SEEDS of all kinds at last spring prices.

A variety of Books on Agriculture.

E. S. THOMAS.

No. 57 South-Street.

### Fresh Grass Seed.

The subscriber has on hand, first quality Orchard, Herds' Grass and Timothy Seed, the growth of 1821, Present prices—Orchard Grass \$4 per bushel.

Herds' " 3 "

Timothy " 4 "

ELY BALDERSTON,

No. 61, Smith's Wharf.

### Valuable Potomac Land for Sale.

I will sell at public sale on the premises, on Thursday the 6th of December, that valuable estate known as "Stumps Neck," situated in Charles County Maryland, on the Potomac, 25 miles below Washington, containing 1200 acres, one half thickly covered with timber and wood. 300 acres remarkably fertile, beside a firm marsh of 100 acres, over which cattle graze at all seasons, can be inclosed by a fence of 200 yards. The marsh can be easily made fit for cultivation, there being no back or current water. There are two first rate herring fisheries on this estate.—Vessels of any burden lay close to the shores, it is distant from the Occoquan Manufacturing Mills only a few miles. The crops, fire-wood, and so forth, can be got to Market with the greatest facility, to a person desirous of engaging in the wood business, many advantages are here presented. The improvements are a small dwelling house, well of good water, large new tobacco house, granary, &c. Persons wishing to view this property will always have an opportunity as the steam boats daily pass within 100 yards. Mr. Speake on the premises will shew the land. Terms one half cash, balance in three years.

GEORGE MASON.

Gunston, Fairfax County, Va.

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